

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rozol Ground Squirrel Bait

Proper Use Practices

Rozol ground squirrel bait is registered for use in Montana under a Special Local Need (SLN) registration [Section 24(c) of FIFRA]. The SLN No. is MT-00-0007. This rodenticide bait was developed and tested in Montana in an effort to provide an effective ground squirrel bait to replace strychnine and Compound 1080 baits which were canceled in the 1980's.

The active ingredient in Rozol ground squirrel bait is chlorphacinone, an anticoagulant. It is formulated on hulled, slightly rolled oats at a concentration of 0.005% (50 ppm). To be effective, ground squirrels must have the opportunity to feed on the bait more than once over a 4 day period. This is accomplished by making two bait applications to the treatment site 4 days apart. Bait is spot applied by hand around burrow openings. Broadcast application is not labeled because no crop residue tolerances have been established.

Field trials to test bait effectiveness resulted in greater than 90 percent reduction in squirrel populations. Information about the effectiveness of the product under operational conditions would be appreciated.

Recommendations to obtain the best control:

1. Bait in the spring after all squirrels have emerged from hibernation but before emergence of litters. Wait at least three (3) weeks after the first squirrels are observed in the spring to assure all squirrels are active.

Do not bait just prior to emergence of litters. Young will not be exposed to the bait and many will be old enough to survive on their own. Bait application 21 to 50 days after first squirrel emergence is observed will generally avoid this problem.

Bait applied after the litters have emerged will still result in good control, but there will be more squirrels to feed which may result in less control.

2. Test bait acceptance before general application. Apply a teaspoon of untreated oats or the Rozol bait to 20 - 30 burrows spaced 25-30 feet apart in a line through the area to be treated. Mark the spots and check them each day for two or three days. Do not apply the bait unless most of the test bait was eaten. It will not be unusual for some bait to be still present at the end of the second day. Bait acceptance will be slower when abundant, green vegetation is present.

3. Apply the bait by hand by scattering a **tablespoon** of bait near burrow openings on bare ground or sparsely vegetated areas. **Bait every burrow opening.** Do not apply in tall or dense vegetation, down burrow openings or on soft mound dirt. Construct a bait application dipper by attaching a one (1) inch copper pipe cap to a length of 1/4 inch rod.

Use of a bait bag strapped around the waist to carry the bait is recommended.

4. Follow the first application with the second application in the same manner 4 days later. Apply the second application even if some bait from the first application is still present.
5. Treat a buffer strip around the primary treatment area to prevent rapid invasion by off-site squirrels.
6. Apply bait when chance of precipitation is low. The bait will tolerate some moisture from light snow or rain showers. Prolonged rain or a heavy downpour will reduce the baits effectiveness.
7. Remove livestock from the treated area until all bait has been consumed by the squirrels. Livestock will trample bait which will make it unavailable to the squirrels. Horses and sheep have the ability to pick the bait up from the ground.

Hazards to Nontarget Animals:

Pets and livestock that eat the bait directly will be poisoned. If an animal has consumed the bait or displays poison symptoms (lethargy, bleeding from eyes, nose or mouth or has blood in the stool or urine) treatment is necessary. Administration of the antidote vitamin K by a veterinarian will be necessary to prevent death. Hazard to animals consuming poisoned carcasses is believed to be low but consumption of several poisoned squirrel carcasses by a single scavenger will present a risk of secondary poisoning.

Most squirrels die in their burrows and most mortality occurs between the 5th and 10th day after application. Search the treatment area for ground squirrel carcasses. Place carcasses found on the surface individually down burrows.

Keep bait in locked or latched storage. Keep excess bait enclosed in vehicles during application. Keep pets away from treated area for two weeks after application.

Costs, landowner organization and applicator licensing:

Large volume purchases make the use of Rozol more economical. An organized control program by area landowners would make volume purchases practical.

When treating large acreages with dense squirrel populations the initial application cost may seem high. If 90 percent or greater control is achieved, maintenance costs the following and subsequent years will be less. Costs averaged over a five year period will seem much more reasonable.

A licensed pesticide dealer is needed to sell the bait. A local landowner could also become licensed for this specific purpose. Rozol ground squirrel bait is a **Restricted**

Use Pesticide, therefore, all users must be licensed as private or commercial applicators. Area landowners may also wish to organize bait crews to apply the bait. This may be more cost effective or convenient for landowners that do not have the time or help to conduct their own application. These crews would need to be licensed as commercial applicators.

Rozol Ground Squirrel Bait Suppliers:

1. Your local pesticide dealer:
2. Statewide Pesticide Wholesalers/Distributors:

Wilbur-Ellis	UAP Big Sky	Cenex	Helena Chemical
Great Falls	Billings	Great Falls	Laurel
727-4500	252-3834	453-1655	628-8778

For more information:

The Montana Department of Agriculture is available to provide training courses which cover squirrel biology, proper application methods, mode of action, safety practices, environmental precautions and alternative control methods.

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